

## **EXPENDITURE OF ADOPTION INCENTIVE FUNDS**

The purpose of Adoption Incentive Funds is to provide incentives to states to increase annually the number of foster child adoptions and special needs adoptions based on AFCARS data submitted.

Missouri had approximately \$837,000 dollars in adoption incentive money available during SFY-05 (\$366,000 from the FFY 03 grant and \$494,000 from the FFY 04 grant). These funds are and will be used in Missouri to provide activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families. These activities include:

- Supporting the 800 adoption line
- Adoptive Newsletter
- Faith-Based Conference
- Contracts with several foster parent organizations that work on retention of adoptive/foster families and also a program for teen placement in adoptive homes
- Special events such as specialized trainings and conferences

In recent years Missouri has established Adoption Resource Contracts. These are contracts with private providers across the state to assist in recruitment, assessment, training, and support of adoptive families. This allocation of resources has greatly enhanced Missouri's capacity to expedite the adoption of waiting children. This is one example of the way Missouri has successfully utilized state dollars to fund pre- and post-adoption services and activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.